

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05  
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09  
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01  
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FPC-01 STR-04 /137 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:PAW  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON  
L:TLEITZELL

-----082030Z 130636 /40

P R 081742Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
SECDEF  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
COMSIXTHFLT  
EUCOM  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, TS

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SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: GUIDANCE FOR  
DISCUSSION WITH TUNISIANS

USDOCOSOUTH PASS CINCOSOUTH FOR POLAD  
CINCUSNAVEUR EUCOM PASS POLADS

REF: A. STATE 72492 B. TUNIS 2231 C. ROME 5539

1. WE ARE CONCERNED OVER REPORTED GOT PROPOSAL TO CONTRACT NORWEGIAN DRILLING SHIP TO ENTER DISPUTED WATERS (REF B). WE BELIEVE TUNISIANS WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY SUSTAINING CASE AS INJURED PARTY IN SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION IF THEY PROCEED TO CHALLENGE LIBYANS BY DRILLING IN SAME AREA OF OVERLAPPING CONCESSIONS AS SCARABEO, OR AT SITE EARLIER PROPOSED BY BUTTES (REF C). MOREOVER, TUNISIAN DRILLING SORTIE COULD WELL LEAD TO AN INCIDENT WHICH WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO HELP TUNISIA ACHIEVE ITS LONG-RUN GOAL OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE LEADING TO EQUITABLE SHARE OF SHELF TERRITORY.

2. SUGGEST EMBASSY BRING FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS TO ATTENTION OF GOT UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE PROBLEMS WITH THIS COURSE. USG HAS TAKEN EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TO U.S. FIRMS UNDER EITHER TUNISIAN OR LIBYAN AUSPICES THAT HAVE CONSULTED WITH US ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. FYI MOST

RECENTLY, READING AND BATES DRILLING COMPANY OF ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND, INDICATED ON APRIL 5 THAT ITALIAN FIRM HAD REQUESTED IT TO TAKE UP DRILLING IN AREA WHERE ITALIAN RIG HAS SUSPENDED OPERATIONS. (THIS FIRM CONTEMPLATES USE OF RIG UNDER PANAMANIAN REGISTRY, OPERATING OUT OF MALTA WITH CREW OF 17 NATIONALITIES, INCLUDING SOME AMERICANS.) WE GAVE READING FULL BRIEFING ON SITUATION AND STANDARD ADVICE TO STAY OUT OF DISPUTED WATERS. NEVERTHELESS, COMPANY REP INDICATED THAT FIRM WAS FAVORABLY CONSIDERING ITALIAN PROPOSITION. WE WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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WATCHING THIS CAREFULLY. END FYI.

3. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR ABILITY TO SUPPORT TUNISIA IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS IF WE WERE ABLE TO SAY THAT WE HAD CAUTIONED TUNISIA AGAINST USE OF NORWEGIAN RIG WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED POLITICALLY PROVOCATIVE ACT. APPRECIATE YOUR REPLY ASAP.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONTINENTAL SHELF, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE079051  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TSWILKINSON:PAW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 72492  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2855050  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: GUIDANCE FOR DISCUSSION WITH TUNISIANS USDOCOSOUTH PASS CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, TS  
**To:** TUNIS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ba6fbca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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